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FORCE WORKS

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY JOHN CZOP
SCOTT "POND SCUM" ELMER

FORCE WORKS

WAR MACHINE

"P.O.V."

WRITER .....DAN ABNETT
ARTIST .....ROB HAYNES
LETTERS.....MADONNA
COLORS.....FRANK LOPEZ

After the battle with the Mandarin, out of power, and lost in a Chinese desert, War Machine and Century struggle to survive.

RECORDER

"P.O.V."

WRITER .....DAN ABNETT
PENCILS .....BRIAN WILLIAMSON
INKS .....MICHAEL WORLEY
LETTERS .....MADONNA
COLORS .....FRANK LOPEZ

Harmonious with the core programming, a clinical observation of FORCE WORKS!

To keep tabs on the entire **HANDS OF THE MANDARIN** crossover, for which we have been presenting parallel stories here in **MCP**, check out:

FORCE WORKS #6	**PART 1**
WAR MACHINE #9	**PART 2**
IRON MAN #311	**PART 3**
FORCE WORKS #7	**PART 4**
WAR MACHINE #10	**PART 5**
IRON MAN #312	**PART 6**

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear Richard and Michael,

It was great to see the Valkyrie in action again. Swinging her sword and lashing out with anger. Taking on her foes just like old times! That was awesome! I hope you know that Valkyrie is my favorite superheroine, ever since the Defenders were out in the seventies. I've missed her presence in Marvel Comics. Why don't you give Valkyrie her own limited-series? She's not with a group plus she's by herself for now. So please think it over.

Spider-Woman is my second favorite also, and I don't like seeing her in a hospital bed. Especially when she is injured by a bullet; it could have killed her. Thank goodness she's alive. This wouldn't have happened if you would have given her spider senses like Spider-Man has. And now she is suffering for it! Spider-Woman needs something to warn her of danger, to let her know who's trying to attack her from behind! The best part of the story is, Spider-Woman caught her attacker and layed him out on the floor **WHAAAM!** It was exciting to see her go for vengeance like that! I like the work of the two pencilers who drew the Valkyrie and Spider-Woman stories. I give both of them a ten. I also like the battle between War Machine and the Spirits of Vengeance, that was bad! How come I haven't seen Collective Man? The guy can summon over one hundred men inside of him. Plus super strength. The last time I saw him was in the contest of champions, fighting Sasquatch and defeating the Big Foot guy. Collective Man is one of my fave characters also. Thanks.

Darren Washington
212 Orange St. 1B
Newark NJ 07103

We wish all our readers were like Collective Man, so they could all go out and buy a hundred copies of MCP to read. Thanks for your letter, Darren.

Dear MCP,

I saw Tim Dutcher's letter in the latest MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, and while I am glad that other people would like to see Rocket Raccoon get a story in these pages, I would like to correct Mr. Dutcher on something. Tim, there ***WAS*** a main supporting character in the Rocket Raccoon limited series who was a rodent-- Blackjack O' Hare! How COULD you forget that scene-stealing scoundrel? But anyway, I'm happy someone agrees with me on ol' Rocket popping up in MCP. I hope other Rocket Raccoon fans will let their voice be heard.

Andrew Kieswetter
37 The Cove Rd.
Adelaide, South Australia
5049, Australia

As to ol' Rocket appearing in future issues of MCP it doesn't look possible at the moment, but the Marvel Universe is a very big and very busy place so you never know.

Dear Richard and Michael,

Well, it's certainly been a while since I got around to writing to you guys. I've been very busy lately. I just moved into my dorm and started classes this week. I'm finally getting a chance to comment on the last few issues of MCP, namely #164-166.

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COVER BY FRED HARPER

VENGEANCE

"IDENTITY CRISIS"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES .....FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

Doc Samson is trapped in a cell designed to hold super beings.Outside, Vengeance is surrounded by the many manifestations of Psychobabble!

NICK FURY

"CODENAME: WOLFEN"

WRITER .....ALAN COWSILL
ARTIST .....PASQUAL FERRY
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....STEVE WHITAKER

S.H.E.I.L.D. has created, Wolfen a prototype cyborg and Hydra wants it for their own. Programmed to think like Fury it seems unstoppable.

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

The production Bullpen is the heart of the editorial offices here at 387 Park Avenue South. A noisy hub of activity, it is what people come to see when they visit Marvel Comics. Occupying a large open room and filled with row upon row of desks, at which artists, designers, and letterers busily toil, the production Bullpen is where teams of production artists put together covers, do corrections, create lettering for cover copy and paste balloons to finished pages of art. The bullpen is also a crossroads of sorts, with editors and assistants dropping off and picking up completed work, freelancers dropping by to turn in jobs, pick up checks or just say hello. The bulletin boards here are filled with information about art exhibits, movies, news items of interest to those with an interest in the bizarre, and sometimes, rather scathing lampoons of our own or our competition's output. The Bullpen is also a meeting place, where we hold our annual Halloween party, and executive editor Mark Gruenwald puts us through the paces in a weird variety of fun and games. It's where the big guys from upstairs will call everyone together to pass along pertinent information of interest to the entire editorial crew, and where bullpenner Steve Bunche conducts well attended lunchtime screenings of decidedly strange film classics, Hong Kong action flicks, Japanese animation, as well as recent episodes of prime time cartoons.

Stan Lee started calling the production area the Bullpen, and the dictionary lists it as a large holding cell for prisoners, or a place on a baseball field where relief pitchers warm up during a game. While our own version doesn't seem to fit either of those definitions, it is definitely an interesting place to work.

"What's going on out there?",
Richard and Michael

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

First off, the covers of late have been extremely well rendered. In fact, the Vengeance cover on #164 was absolutely stunning. It looked like it had been airbrushed. How was that effect achieved? As for the other five covers, they were outstanding. I do have a couple of questions about the covers. First, what happened to the Midnight Sons Dagger? It hasn't appeared here or on any of the other Midnight Sons titles in the past month. Second, why give Man-Thing three covers in a row? I would like to have seen a Spider-Woman or Turbo cover on #166. Or, if you had to have three Man-Thing covers, you could have alternated artists, like on the Vengeance covers. That's the closest I can come to a complaint in terms of covers.

The latest Vengeance story arc was one of your best yet. After Psiphon's lame debut in MCP #147-8, this story greatly enhanced the character. I usually don't like resurrections, but Psiphon's surprise role made up for that. You also wrapped up the Sam Buchanan plotline, and introduced some ties to the Vengeance appearances in GHOST RIDER by using Uno in the last two parts.

However, I wasn't as pleased with the conclusion of the Tigra tale (no pun intended). After three chapters of buildup, it seemed like Dave DeVries suddenly realized he only had eight pages with which to wrap-up "Slave of Passion." That's why you should consider bringing back six-part stories or, if the need exists, eight-parters.

Man-Thing, Man-Thing, what do I think about Man-Thing? Well, now I know why macabre is the oft-used adjective that accompanies his (its) name. Seriously, I have always wondered what happened to Ted Sallis' mind when he became the Man-Thing. He regressed from being a brilliant scientist to non-sentient living muck. It makes sense that his original personality was buried beneath whatever passes for the Man-Thing's mind. At least, that's what I think the writer was saying. Even though I don't understand this story completely, I look forward to the conclusion.

Moving on to the single issue tales, I'm glad to see members of the Fantastic Four being spotlighted. The Thing tale was okay, but I really liked the Reed Richards adventure with Klaus Janson on inks. Hopefully we'll see other members of the Fantastic Four in solo stories soon, namely the Human Torch, Invisible Woman, Lyja, and Ant-Man (don't forget the last two).

Both the Spider-Woman and Turbo stories that started in #166 showed potential. Of course, I'm wondering if three and two parts, respectively, are enough to adequately develop these stories. Guess I'll have to see. By the way, I read #166 the day I moved into my dorm room, so it was ironic seeing Turbo's getting trashed by the Pantheon. Of course, she's lucky in that her room is a lot larger than most college dorm rooms, AND she doesn't have a roommate! Only in the Marvel Universe...

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY 10583

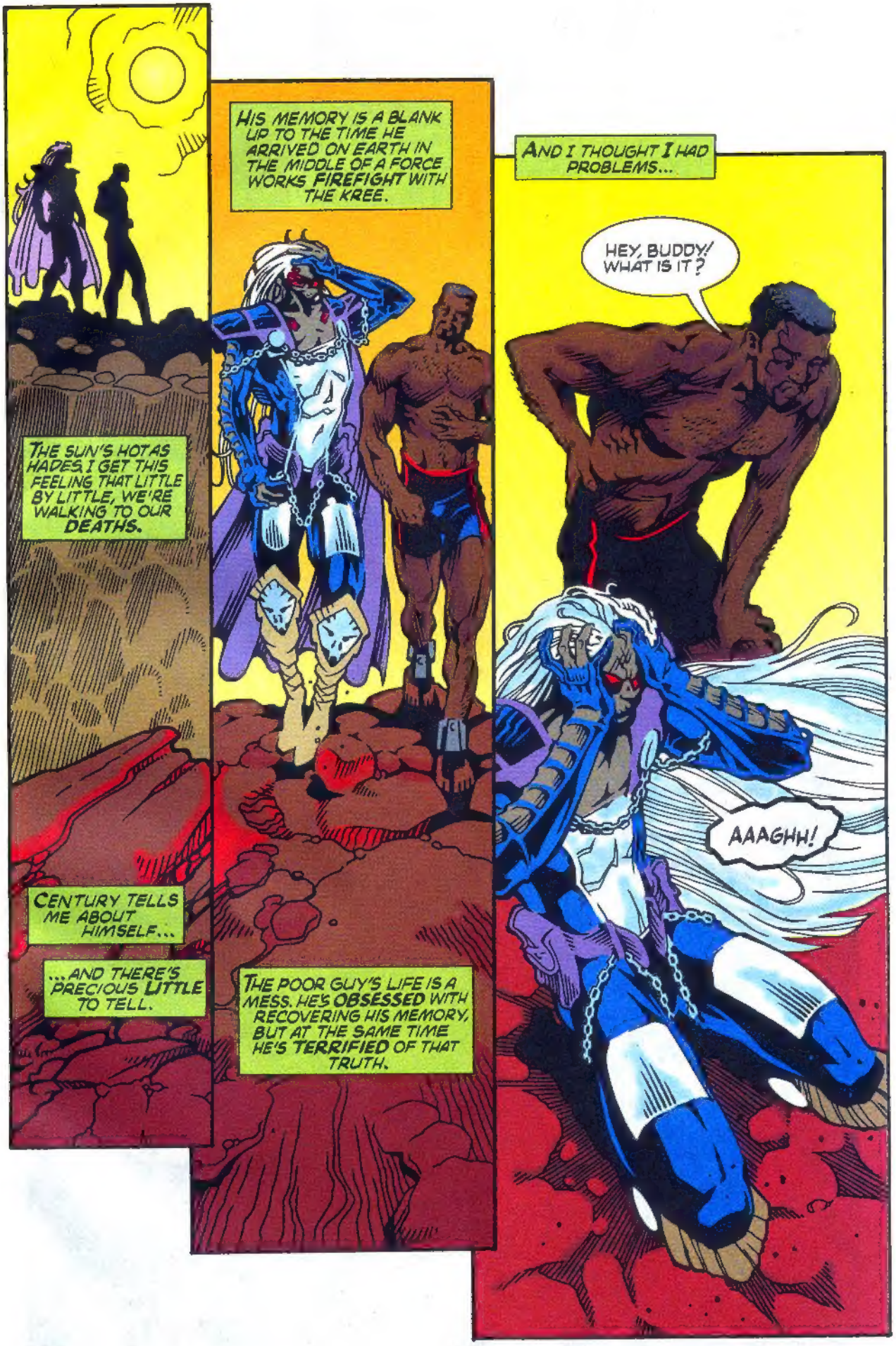
Vengeance cover, artist Reggie Jones drew red lines on the artwork, which the color separator then uses for a holding line only, and then photographically removes for a color-against-color effect. The Midnight Sons dagger was dropped from the covers because it was felt they separated those books too much from the rest of the Marvel Universe. Man-Thing was featured on all those covers to give a real presence to a feature story much like we're doing with the Hands of the Mandarin crossover.

THE BACK END OF NOWHERE, DEEP IN THE CHINESE HINTERLAND.
I'VE BEEN BEATEN TO A PULP BY THE BLASTED MANDARIN, AND THE SUIT'S DEAD... FRITZED OUT BY SOME ANTI-TECHNOLOGY FIELD.
AND THEN THERE'S THIS ET WEIRDO CALLED CENTURY...
I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS, Y'KNOW?
TAKE IT EASY, OKAY?
THE SHOULDER CATCHES OF YOUR SUIT ARE DIFFICULT TO RELEASE WITHOUT POWER. PLEASE BE PATIENT.
WAR MACHINE

I DO NOT WISH TO -NGH!- PULL TOO HARD -GRN.!- FOR FEAR I WILL ALSO-GNNG!- REMOVE YOUR ARM.
GNNGH!
WELL, GEE, WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT NOW...
DON'T WANT TO BUG THE GUY... I'VE GOT A FEELING HE COULD RIP MY ARM OFF IF HE FELT LIKE IT.
KLKK!
AT LAST.
I THINK I HAVE MASTERED THE LOCKING MECHANISM NOW.
UGHHN...
...TO BE FREE OF THE SUIT, I MEAN. MAN, I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A TINNED ANCHOVY THERE.
COULDN'T WALK, COULDN'T MOVE... COULD BARELY BREATHE, AND... HEY, YOU OKAY?
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF...

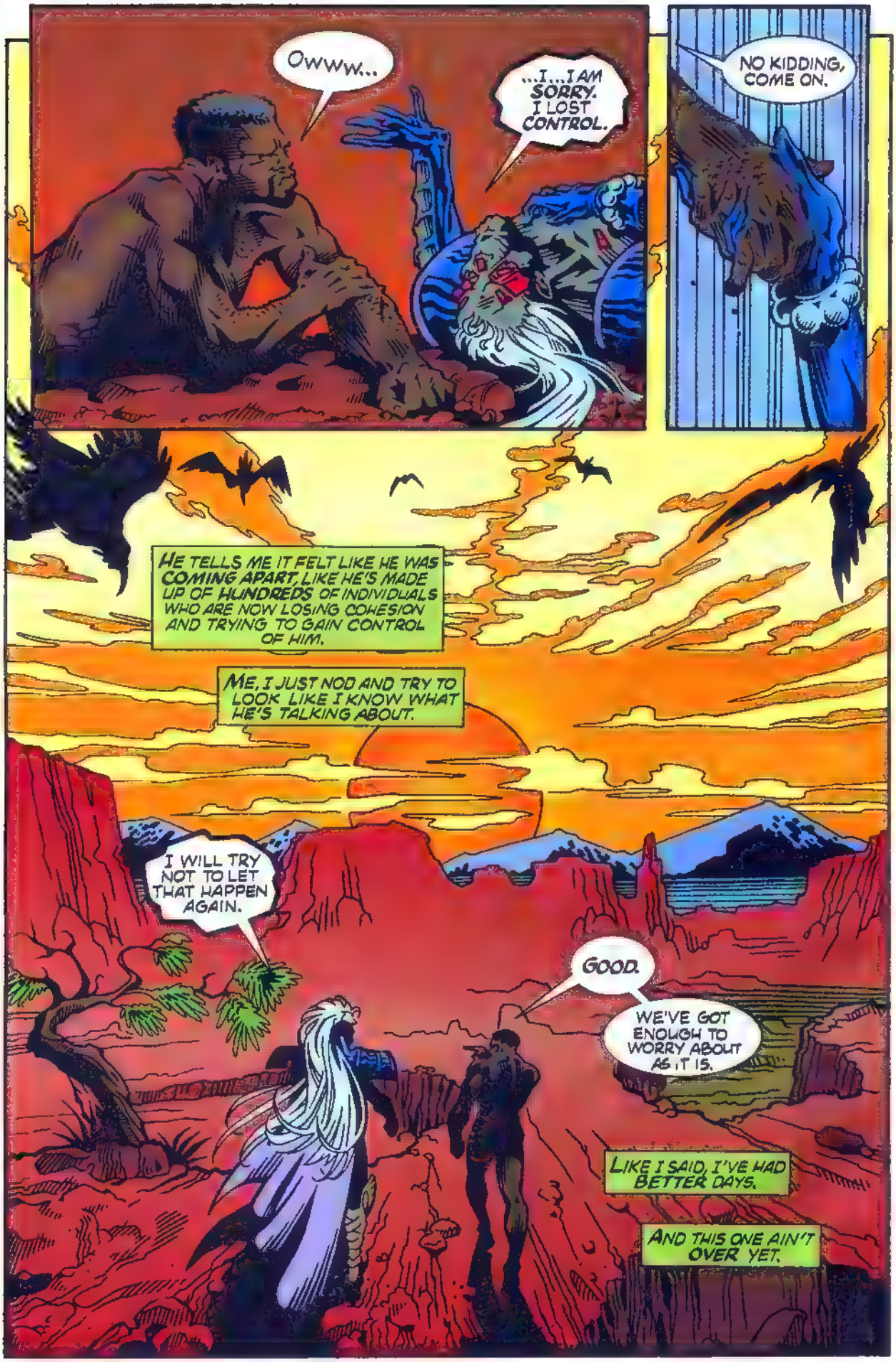
...WAVES OF PAIN AND DIZZINESS KEEP WASHING OVER ME.
WHEN WE TELEPORTED FROM THE MANDARIN'S FORTRESS, I LEFT BEHIND MY STAFF PARALLAX. I BELIEVE I AM SUFFERING SOME KIND OF WITHDRAWAL EFFECT DUE TO THE SEPARATION.
WITH PARALLAX, I COULD TRAVEL THE DIMENSIONS OF SPACE-TIME, SEE THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE BEHIND THE FABRIC OF REALITY.
NOW THE SKY IS BLANK AND I AM TRAPPED/BLIND/LOST.
GUESS WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT, PRETTY MUCH...YOU WITHOUT THIS STAFF, ME WITHOUT MY ARMOR IT'S TOUGH LOSING SOMETHING YOU RELY ON...
AT LEAST YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WERE BEFORE YOU DONNED THAT ARMOR. ETERNITY HAS ERASED MY MEMORY...
...WITHOUT PARALLAX, WHAT LITTLE IDENTITY I POSSESSED HAS GONE.

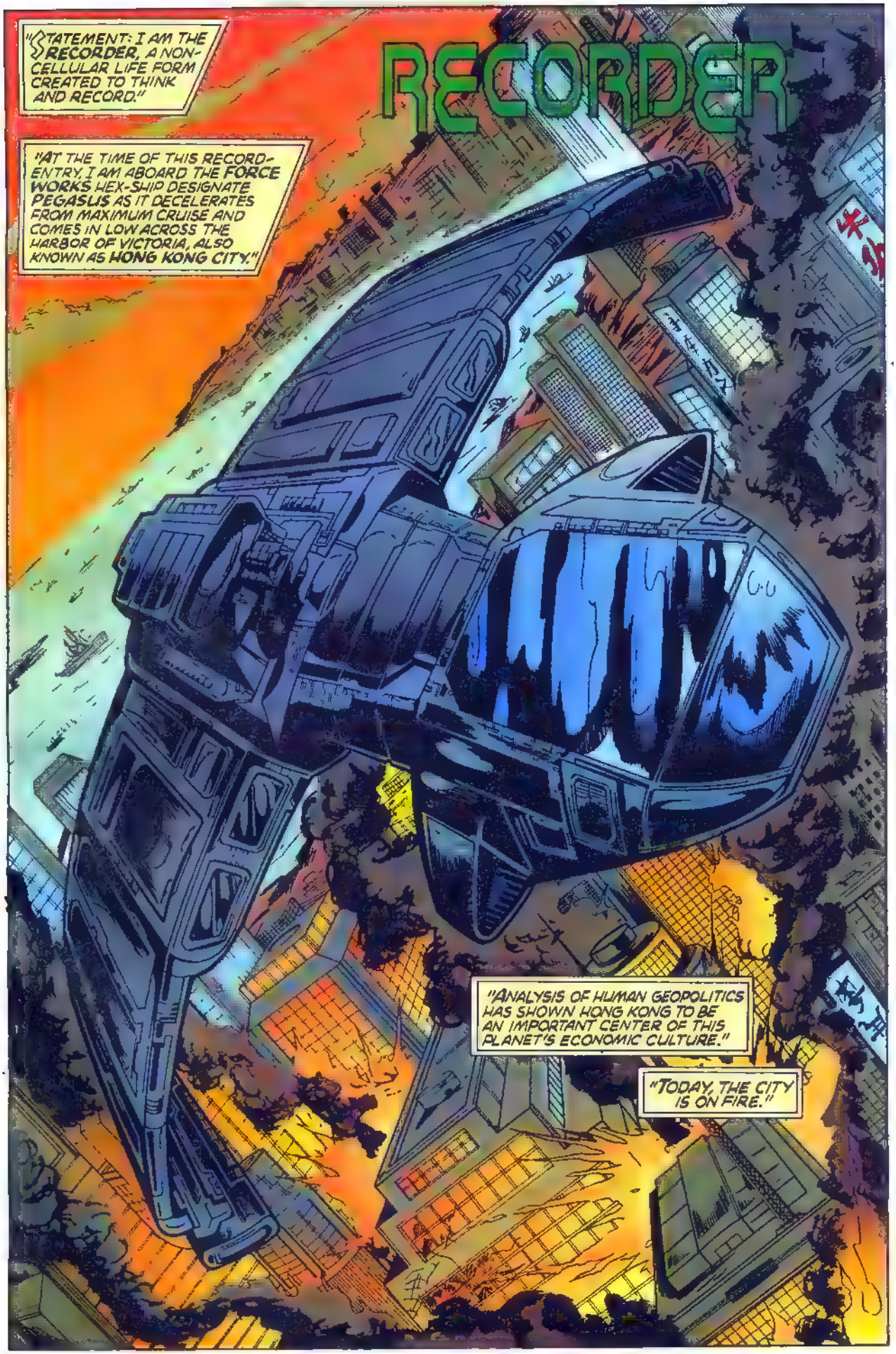
THE GUY HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC, BUT I KINDA FEEL FOR HIM. IT'S LIKE HE'S AFRAID OF FINDING OUT WHAT HE USED TO BE.
AND I OWE HIM. HE LOST THIS STAFF OF HIS SAVING ME FROM THE MANDARIN'S DEATH RAY. PITY WE DIDN'T MANAGE TO SPRING IRON MAN AT THE SAME TIME.
WE HIDE THE WAR MACHINE SUIT FROM PRYING EYES, AND SET OFF EAST.
WITH A LITTLE LUCK, WE'LL FIND CIVILIZATION BEFORE THE HEAT KILLS US.
OR WORSE.
LET ME ASSIST YOU. YOUR INJURIES ARE CONSIDERABLE...
OH, LIKE YOU'RE FINE? WE'LL HELP EACH OTHER...
MAN, THIS IS LIKE A BAD REMAKE OF "THE DEFIANT ONES."
HMMM...I HAVE SEEN THE ENTERTAINMENT YOU REFER TO, BUT...WE ARE NOT SHACKLED TOGETHER.
FORGET IT.
LITERAL MINDED, OR WHAT? DUNNO HOW STARK AND THE PEOPLE AT FORCE WORKS STAND THIS GUY!
STILL, RIGHT NOW HE'S THE ONLY FRIEND I'VE GOT.


THE SUN'S HOT AS HADES. I GET THIS FEELING THAT LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE'RE WALKING TO OUR DEATHS.
CENTURY TELLS ME ABOUT HIMSELF...
...AND THERE'S PRECIOUS UTTLE TO TELL.
HIS MEMORY IS A BLANK UP TO THE TIME HE ARRIVED ON EARTH IN THE MIDDLE OF A FORCE WORKS FIREFIGHT WITH THE KREE.
THE POOR GUY'S LIFE IS A MESS. HE'S OBSESSED WITH RECOVERING HIS MEMORY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE'S TERRIFIED OF THAT TRUTH.
AND I THOUGHT I HAD PROBLEMS...
HEY, BUDDY! WHAT IS IT?
AAAGHH!

...THE PAIN OF SEPARATION RETURNS...I HEAR VOICES IN MY MIND...
...MANY VOICES, CALLING FOR ATTENTION/ OVERLAPPING/ CONFLICTING...
THIS IS BAD. HE'S TREMBLING, SICK...
DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO... ALIEN PARAMEDICINE AIN'T MY FIELD!
JUST TAKE IT EASY, NOW...
...GHUHH! THE ELDER SUNS./ DISMAYED CHILDREN IN THE SHADOWS OF THE KENG DERELICT...
HUH?
...MALORBA, DISEASED./ THE SHIPS BURNING AS THEY FALL INTO THE GULF... EEAAARRGGHHHH!
UGHHN!
HE'S BABBLING NONSENSE. HE'S RAVING.
AND I'M A DEAD MAN!

CRUSHING MY THROAT!
TRY TO BREAK FREE... BUT I DON'T HAVE A HOPE WITHOUT MY ARMOR AGAINST HIS RAW ALIEN POWER!
GYAAAH! BETRAYED! PARKOTH... BETRAYED! LEFT FOR DEAD BY HIS KIN ON THE SLOPES OF SHEN VO!
WHAT A WAY TO GO... CHOKED TO DEATH BY A SCHIZOID MAN FROM MARS!
KRAK!
THE OLD RIGHT HOOK.
WE GO TUMBLING DOWN THE SLOPE. MY BEAT-UP BODY DOESN'T NEED THIS.
SAVIOR OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT, AND FRIEND TO THE STARS.
LEAST I'M BREATHING AGAIN.


OWWW...
...I...I AM SORRY. I LOST CONTROL.
NO KIDDING, COME ON.
HE TELLS ME IT FELT LIKE HE WAS COMING APART, LIKE HE'S MADE UP OF HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOW LOSING COHESION AND TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF HIM.
ME, I JUST NOD AND TRY TO LOOK LIKE I KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.
I WILL TRY NOT TO LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.
GOOD.
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT AS IT IS.
LIKE I SAID, I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS.
AND THIS ONE AIN'T OVER YET.

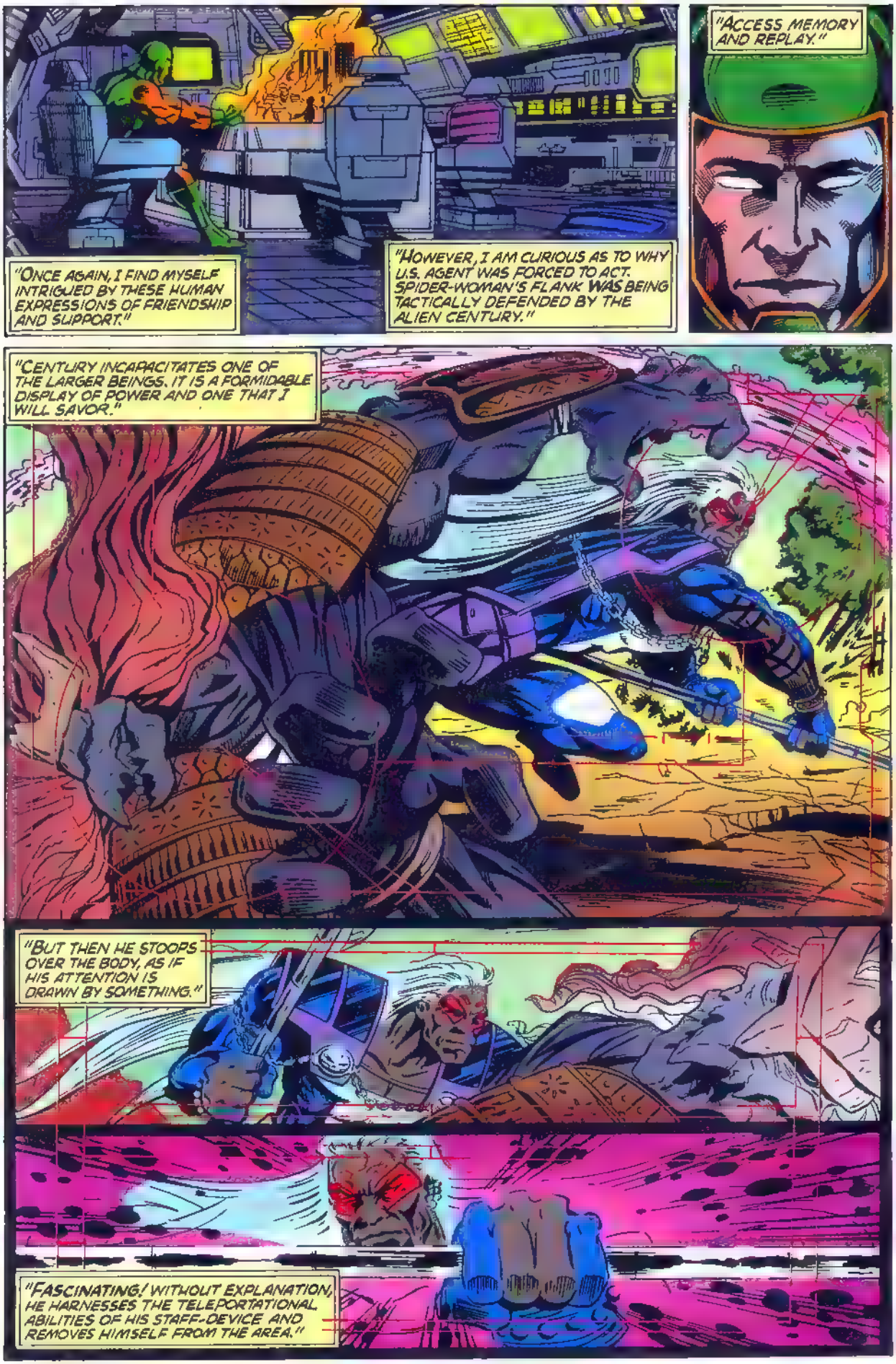

"STATEMENT: I AM THE RECORDER, A NON-CELLULAR LIFE FORM CREATED TO THINK AND RECORD."
RECORDER
"AT THE TIME OF THIS RECORD-ENTRY, I AM ABOARD THE FORCE WORKS HEX-SHIP DESIGNATE PEGASUS AS IT DECELERATES FROM MAXIMUM CRUISE AND COMES IN LOW ACROSS THE HARBOR OF VICTORIA, ALSO KNOWN AS HONG KONG CITY."
"ANALYSIS OF HUMAN GEOPOLITICS HAS SHOWN HONG KONG TO BE AN IMPORTANT CENTER OF THIS PLANET'S ECONOMIC CULTURE."
"TODAY, THE CITY IS ON FIRE."

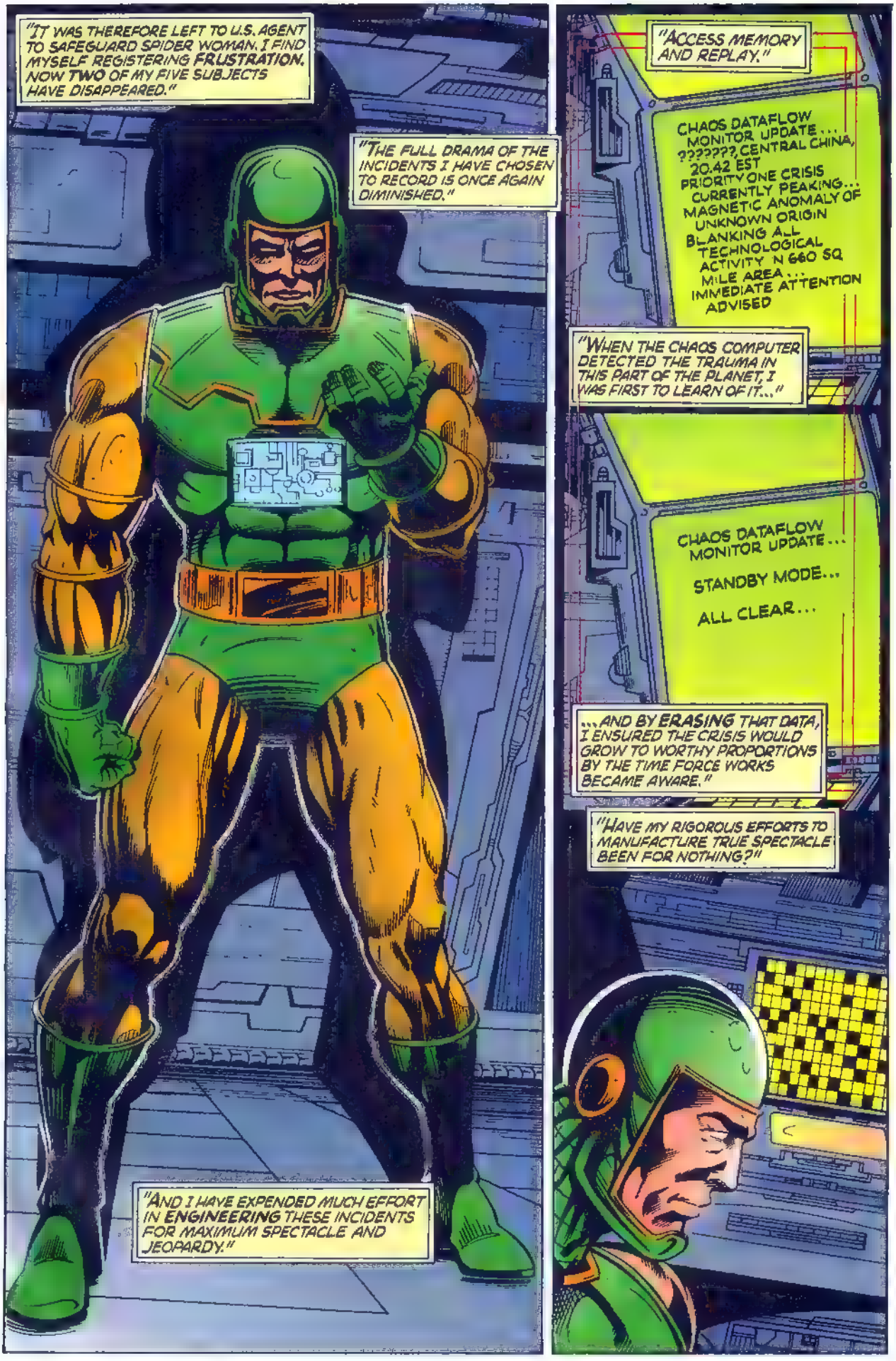
"FORCE WORKS HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS EMERGENCY. THEY ARE, IN HUMAN VERNACULAR, HEROES. THIS IS WHAT THEY DO."
COMING IN OVER THE BUSINESS DISTRICT. LOOKS LIKE A WARZONE DOWN THERE, PEOPLE.
ROGER THAT. SWITCHING PEGASUS TO HOVER-MODE
"I HAVE BEEN IN THEIR COMPANY FOR SOME MONTHS, AND HAVE DEDICATED MY SYSTEMS TO OBSERVING THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND EXISTENCE."
"THIS DECISION IS HARMONIOUS WITH MY CORE PROGRAMMING AS A RECORDER. MY KIND SEEK OUT THE NOTEWORTHY AND THE SIGNIFICANT ACROSS THE GALAXY, AND RECORD SUCH THINGS FOR POSTERITY."
"I BELIEVE FORCE WORKS WILL PROVIDE ME WITH MUCH THAT IS WORTHY OF MY ATTENTION."
"SO FAR, HOWEVER, THE CAUSE OF THIS CRISIS IS UNKNOWN."
TACTICAL HOLOGRAM SHOWS SEVERAL APPARENTLY SUPERPOWERED INDIVIDUALS ON THE RAMPAGE BELOW US.
"HIGHLIGHT SUBJECT: THE SCARLET WITCH."
"A HUMAN MUTANT WITH THE POWER TO MANIPULATE NATURAL PROBABILITIES, THIS FEMALE IS THE TEAM'S FIELD LEADER."
"SHE HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OF SUCH MATTERS."

"HIGHLIGHT SUBJECT: CENTURY."
"CHANCE SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT THIS ALIEN TRAVELLER INTO THE GROUP. I HAVE NOT YET MADE A SATISFACTORY ASSESSMENT OF HIS NATURE OR MOTIVES."
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GET DOWNSTAIRS AND TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM!
I'M WITH AGENT! IF WE DON'T MOVE SOON, THERE WON'T BE A BUILDING LEFT STANDING!
"HIGHLIGHT SUBJECT: U.S. AGENT."
"HEADSTRONG, COURAGEOUS, DETERMINED... THIS HUMAN IS A SOLDIER AND A MAN OF ACTION. I BELIEVE THAT HIS ACTIVITIES WILL PROVIDE ME WITH THE BEST FOOTAGE."
"HIGHLIGHT SUBJECT: SPIDER-WOMAN."
"THIS HUMAN FEMALE POSSESSES PSIONICALLY-DERIVED POWERS THAT MIMIC THOSE OF A TERRESTRIAL ARACHNID. I HOPE TO WITNESS THESE FEATS IN ACTION FOR MY CHRONICLE."

ATCH OPEN
I'M POPPING THE OUTER HATCH! LET'S GET READY TO MOVE!
WHOOO! I COUNT FIVE BOGIES DOWN THERE! THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!
"STATEMENT: I HAVE NOTICED U.S. AGENT OFTEN USES IRONIC EUPHEMISMS SUCH AS THIS WHEN FACING DANGEROUS SITUATIONS."
"PERHAPS IT IS A SELF-CONFIDENCE BOOSTING FORM OF DENIAL. WHATEVER THE REASON, IT FILLS ME WITH KEEN ANTICIPATION."
YOU WAIT ON BOARD, RECORDER. AND STAY OUT OF OUR WAY!
"HIGHLIGHT SUBJECT: SCARLET WITCH."
"I DETECT NO IRONY IN THE HUMAN FEMALE'S VOICE OR EXPRESSION. PERHAPS SHE IS GENUINELY CONCERNED FOR MY WELFARE."

"I SEAL THE HATCH AFTER THEM AND RETURN TO MY OBSERVATION OF THE TACTICAL HOLOGRAM."
"ON THE GROUND, THEY ENGAGE THE CREATURES ALMOST AT ONCE. AN ARCHIVAL CROSS-CHECK SHOWS FORCE WORKS' OPPONENTS TO RESEMBLE BEINGS FROM CHINESE MYTHOLOGY."
"I FIND MYSELF WISHING THE FIFTH MEMBER OF THE TEAM WERE HERE TODAY."
"THEY ARE CLEARLY POTENT FOES."
"HIGHLIGHT MEMORY IMAGE: IRON MAN."
"IRON MAN DISAPPEARED TEN HOURS AGO DURING A CLASH WITH AN INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS WAR MACHINE. THIS IS TROUBLING. I HAD WISHED TO RECORD HIM IN ACTION, TOO.
"I TURN MY ATTENTION BACK TO THE EVENTS BELOW, AND MY DILIGENCE IS REWARDED."
"U.S. AGENT USES HIS PHOTON SHIELD TO PROTECT HIS TEAM MATE SPIDER WOMAN FROM MORTAL HARM."


"ONCE AGAIN, I FIND MYSELF INTRIGUED BY THESE HUMAN EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT."
"HOWEVER, I AM CURIOUS AS TO WHY U.S. AGENT WAS FORCED TO ACT. SPIDER-WOMAN'S FLANK WAS BEING TACTICALLY DEFENDED BY THE ALIEN CENTURY."
"ACCESS MEMORY AND REPLAY."
"CENTURY INCAPACITATES ONE OF THE LARGER BEINGS. IT IS A FORMIDABLE DISPLAY OF POWER AND ONE THAT I WILL SAVOR."
"BUT THEN HE STOOPS OVER THE BODY, AS IF HIS ATTENTION IS DRAWN BY SOMETHING."
"FASCINATING! WITHOUT EXPLANATION, HE HARNESSES THE TELEPORTATIONAL ABILITIES OF HIS STAFF-DEVICE AND REMOVES HIMSELF FROM THE AREA."


"IT WAS THEREFORE LEFT TO U.S. AGENT TO SAFEGUARD SPIDER WOMAN. I FIND MYSELF REGISTERING FRUSTRATION. NOW TWO OF MY FIVE SUBJECTS HAVE DISAPPEARED."
"THE FULL DRAMA OF THE INCIDENTS I HAVE CHOSEN TO RECORD IS ONCE AGAIN DIMINISHED."
"AND I HAVE EXPENDED MUCH EFFORT IN ENGINEERING THESE INCIDENTS FOR MAXIMUM SPECTACLE AND JEOPARDY."
"ACCESS MEMORY AND REPLAY."
CHAOS DATAFLOW MONITOR UPDATE... ??????, CENTRAL CHINA, 20.42 EST PRIORITY ONE CRISIS CURRENTLY PEAKING... MAGNETIC ANOMALY OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN BLANKING ALL TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITY N 660 SQ MILE AREA... IMMEDIATE ATTENTION ADVISED
"WHEN THE CHAOS COMPUTER DETECTED THE TRAUMA IN THIS PART OF THE PLANET, I WAS FIRST TO LEARN OF IT..."
CHAOS DATAFLOW MONITOR UPDATE...
STANDBY MODE...
ALL CLEAR...
"...AND BY ERASING THAT DATA, I ENSURED THE CRISIS WOULD GROW TO WORTHY PROPORTIONS BY THE TIME FORCE WORKS BECAME AWARE."
"HAVE MY RIGOROUS EFFORTS TO MANUFACTURE TRUE SPECTACLE BEEN FOR NOTHING?"

"I look back to the display. Now only three of them stand between Hong Kong and destruction. I console myself."
"Humans often give of their best when the ODDS, as they call it, are stacked against them. Perhaps I will not be disappointed after all."
"Perhaps I will witness the heroism and drama I crave. Perhaps they will snatch victory from the jaws of defeat."
"Or perhaps one of them will die."
"The death of a hero."
"Now that would be something WORTH the recording."

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VENGEANCE NICK FURY
FORCE WORKS
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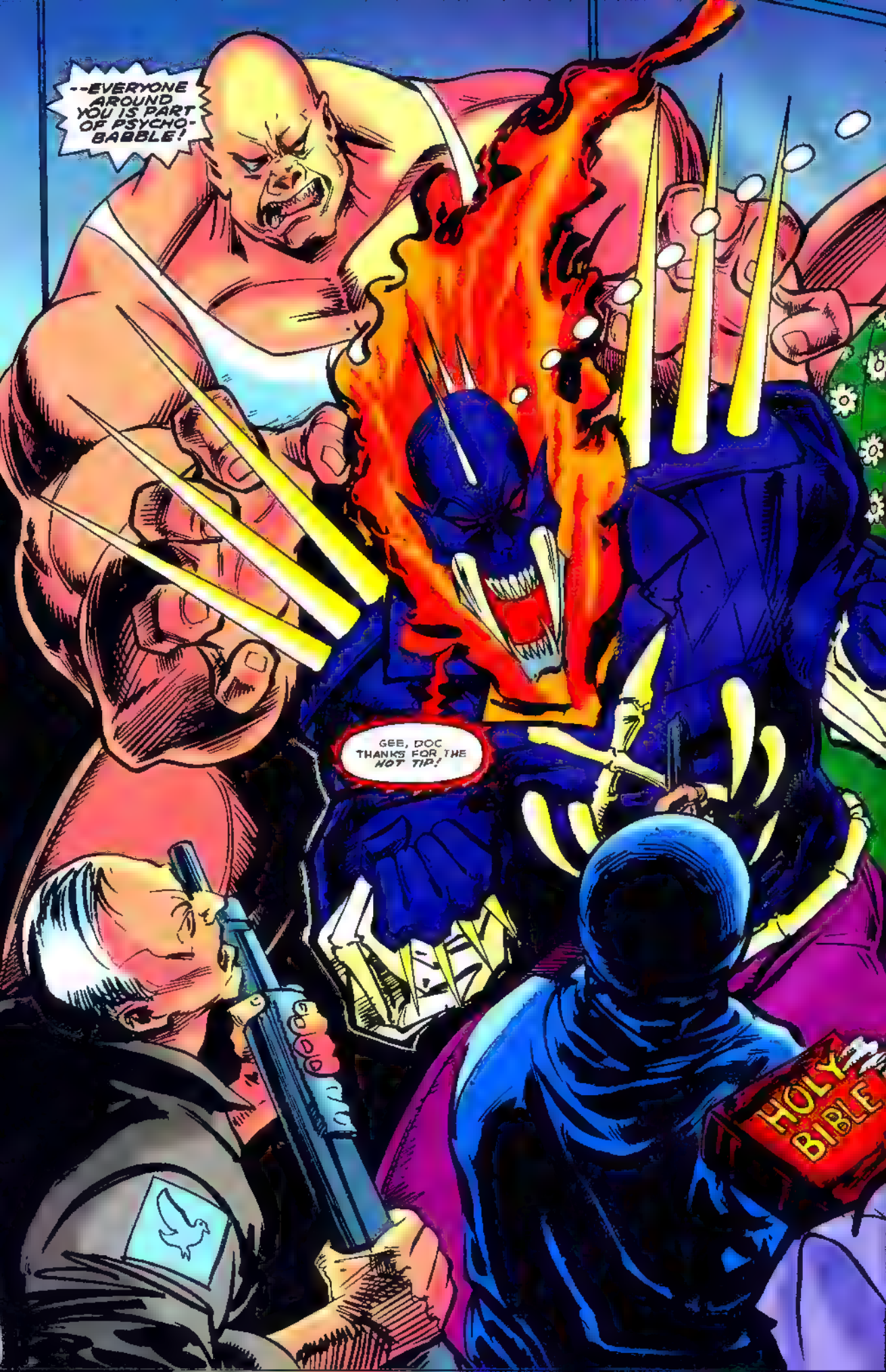
"BLAST IT, I'M A PSYCHIATRIST-- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TREATING THE PEOPLE IN THIS MENTAL INSTITUTION...
"...NOT TRAPPED IN ONE OF ITS MAXIMUM SECURITY LOCKUPS!
"WHAT'S WORSE, I'M DOC SAMSON-- MY SUPER-STRENGTH OUGHT TO LET ME BUST OUT OF HERE WITH EASE...
"...EXCEPT THIS ROOM WAS DESIGNED TO KEEP SUPER-HUMANS IN!
"NOW MICHAEL BADILINO --VENGEANCE --IS OUT THERE ALONE, FACING THE MENACE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS CELL...
"...THE MENACE THAT TRICKED ME IN HERE..."
VENGEANCE, LISTEN TO ME THE BEING YOU'RE FACING MANIFESTS ITS SPLIT PERSONALITY PHYSICALLY--
VENGEANCE in "IDENTITY CRISIS"

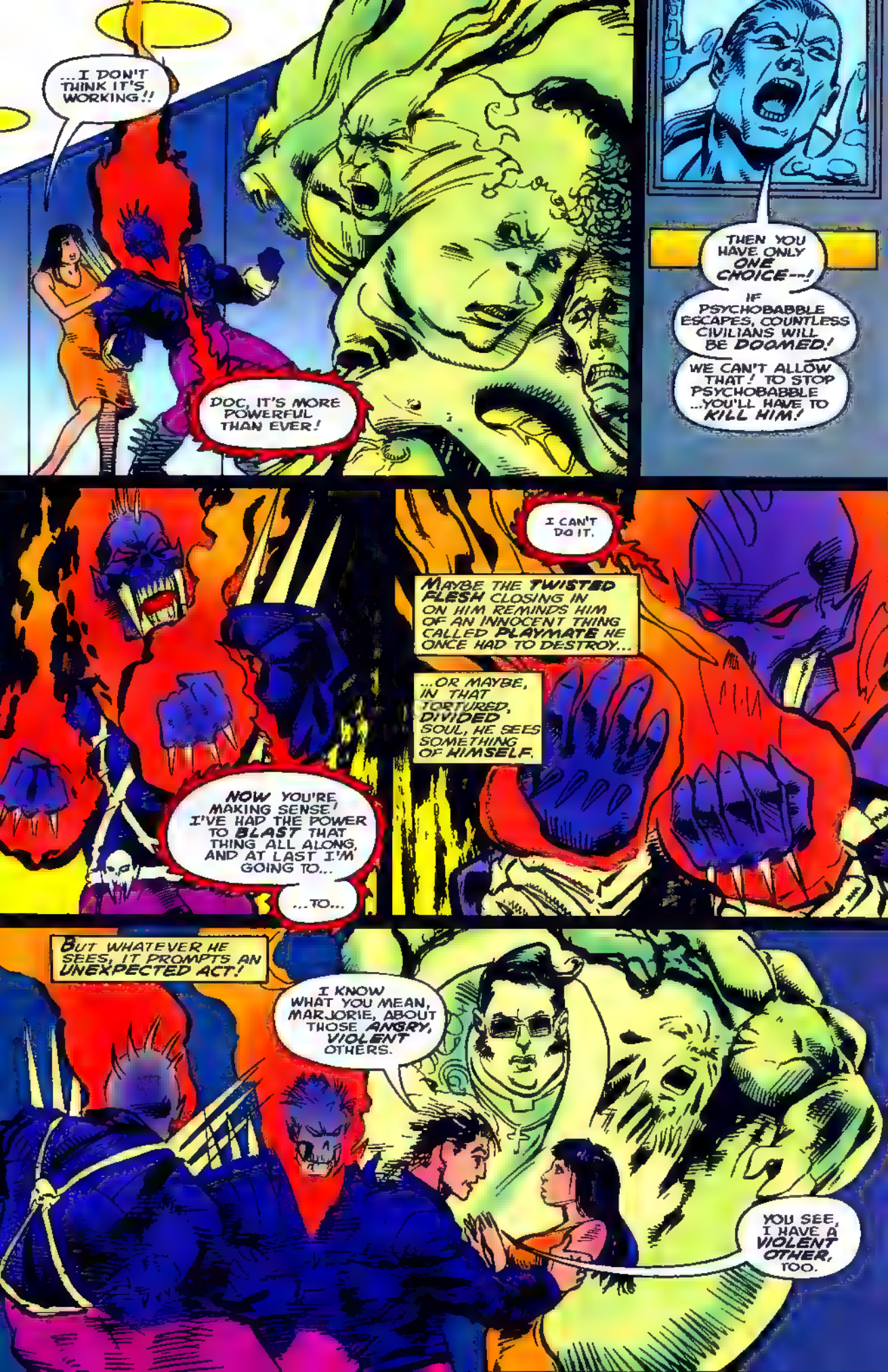

--EVERYONE AROUND YOU IS PART OF PSYCHO-BABBLE!
GEE, DOC THANKS FOR THE HOT TIP!
HOLY BIBLE

AND I THOUGHT I HAD PROBLEMS! PSYCHOBABBLE'S HEAD MUST BE PANDEMONIUM!
B-BE CAREFUL! THAT UNGRATEFUL LITTLE SNOT ALMOST KILLED ME!
SHUDDUP, YA WUSS! HE'S NUTHIN' AN UZI CAN'T HANDLE!
HE'S GOT A PERSONA FOR EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK! FROM THAT GUN-TOTING POSTAL WORKER FOR THOSE TOUGH MONDAYS...
...TO A TWO-BIT VERSION OF THAT TELEVANGELIST, REV. NICE, FOR SUNDAYS!
THEN WHAT'RE YOU GOOD CHRISTIANS WAITING FOR?
IN THE NAME OF ALL THE SAINTS AND ELVIS--KICK THE HELLFIRE OUT OF HIM!!
HOLY BIBLE

PAINKILLER HOLDS THE TITLE BELT--SO I GET TO CRUSH HIM FIRST!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
I CAME TO DOC SAMSON FOR HELP IN CONTROLLING MY VIOLENT NATURE...
...INSTEAD, I'M FIGHTING ANDRE THE GIANT!
WUMP
TALK ABOUT CLUMSY ATTACKS--! BUT THEN, THAT'S WHAT PRO WRESTLERS ARE ALL--
URK!
CLAM UP, YOU WORTHLESS--!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WISE, PUMPKIN?
TOO MANY OF THEM... ALL WITH POWERS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER!
BUT I CAN'T--MUSTN'T--GIVE IN TO MY VIOLENT INSTINCTS! THIS IS A SICK PERSON...
...HE NEEDS HELP, NOT--
UUUNGGH!
BRRAAM
NOW, WHILE THE REF'S NOT LOOKING--WE CAN DOUBLE-TEAM HIM!

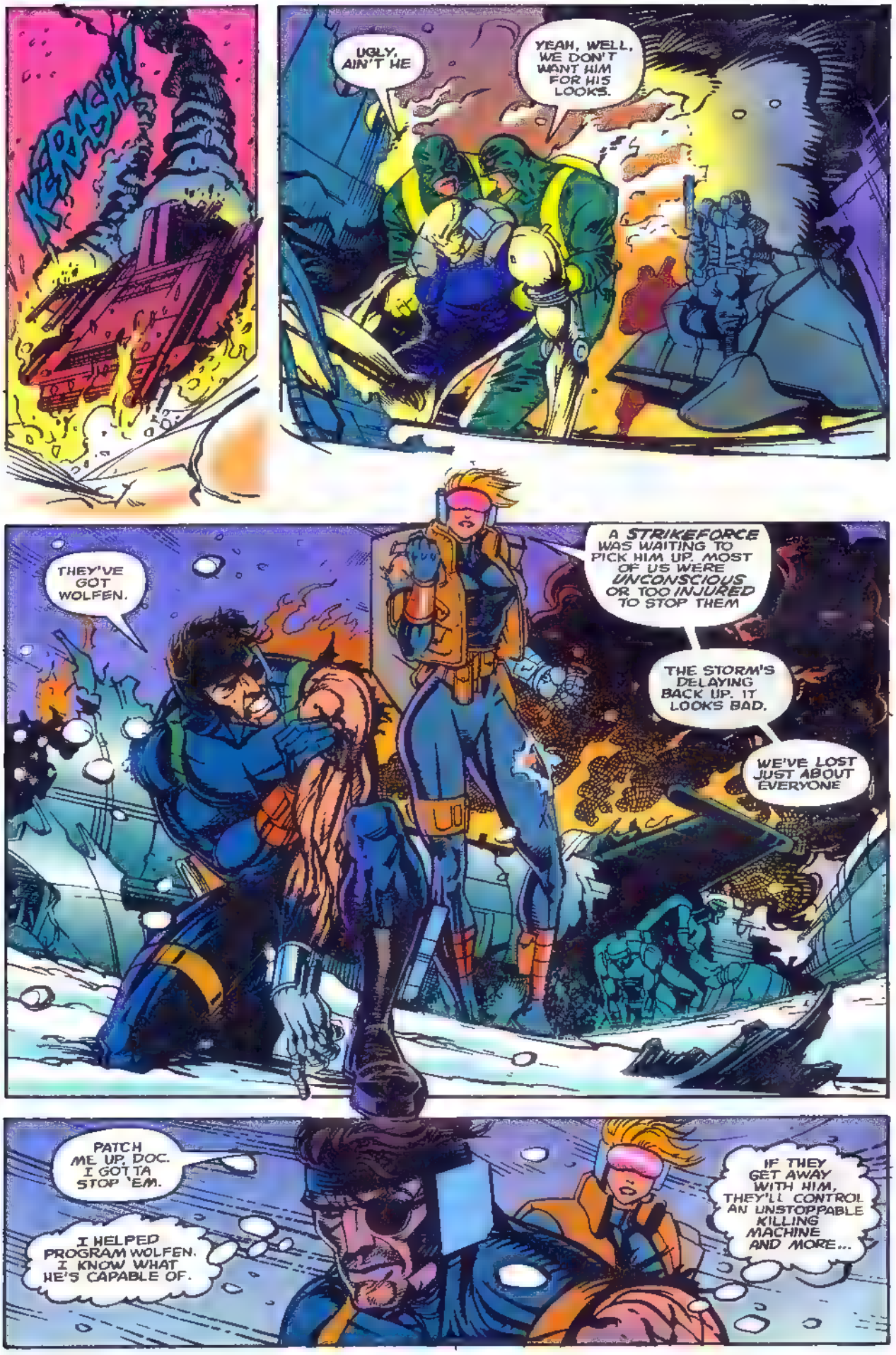
WHAM
ENOUGH!!
THIS HELLFIRE BLAST IS YOUR ONLY WARNING!
FWOOM
THE NEXT ONE TO MOVE BECOMES A ROASTED PSYCHOSIS!
THAT PERSONA HAS THE POWER TO PULL THE OTHERS TOGETHER.*
FORGET THEM, VENGEANCE! FIND MARJORIE--A MEEK WOMAN!
*AS DOC LEARNED IN HULK ANNUAL #20! -RICHARD
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, SONNY--AN UZI WON'T BE ENOUGH...
MEEK?! SOMEBODY HERE IS MEEK?!?
...BUT A BAZOOKA SHOULD DO NICELY!
FWKAM
AAARRGH!!

I SHOULD JUST PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!!
MY SHOULDER--!!
WAIT... BEHIND HIM...
"...MARJORIE! IT MUST BE!"
PLEASE, MARJORIE, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS! MAKE YOURSELF AND THE OTHERS WHOLE AGAIN.
BUT THEY'RE SO ANGRY ALL THE TIME...SO AWFUL! I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THEM!
PLEASE! YOU'VE GOT TO AT LEAST TRY.
ALL RIGHT, BUT...


...I DON'T THINK IT'S WORKING!!
DOC, IT'S MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER!
THEN YOU HAVE ONLY ONE CHOICE--!
IF PSYCHOBABBLE ESCAPES, COUNTLESS CIVILIANS WILL BE DOOMED!
WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT! TO STOP PSYCHOBABBLE ...YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM!
NOW YOU'RE MAKING SENSE! I'VE HAD THE POWER TO BLAST THAT THING ALL ALONG, AND AT LAST I'M GOING TO...
...TO...
I CAN'T DO IT.
MAYBE THE TWISTED FLESH CLOSING IN ON HIM REMINDS HIM OF AN INNOCENT THING CALLED PLAYMATE HE ONCE HAD TO DESTROY...
...OR MAYBE, IN THAT TORTURED, DIVIDED SOUL, HE SEES SOMETHING OF HIMSELF.
BUT WHATEVER HE SEES, IT PROMPTS AN UNEXPECTED ACT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MARJORIE, ABOUT THOSE ANGRY, VIOLENT OTHERS.
YOU SEE, I HAVE A VIOLENT OTHER, TOO.

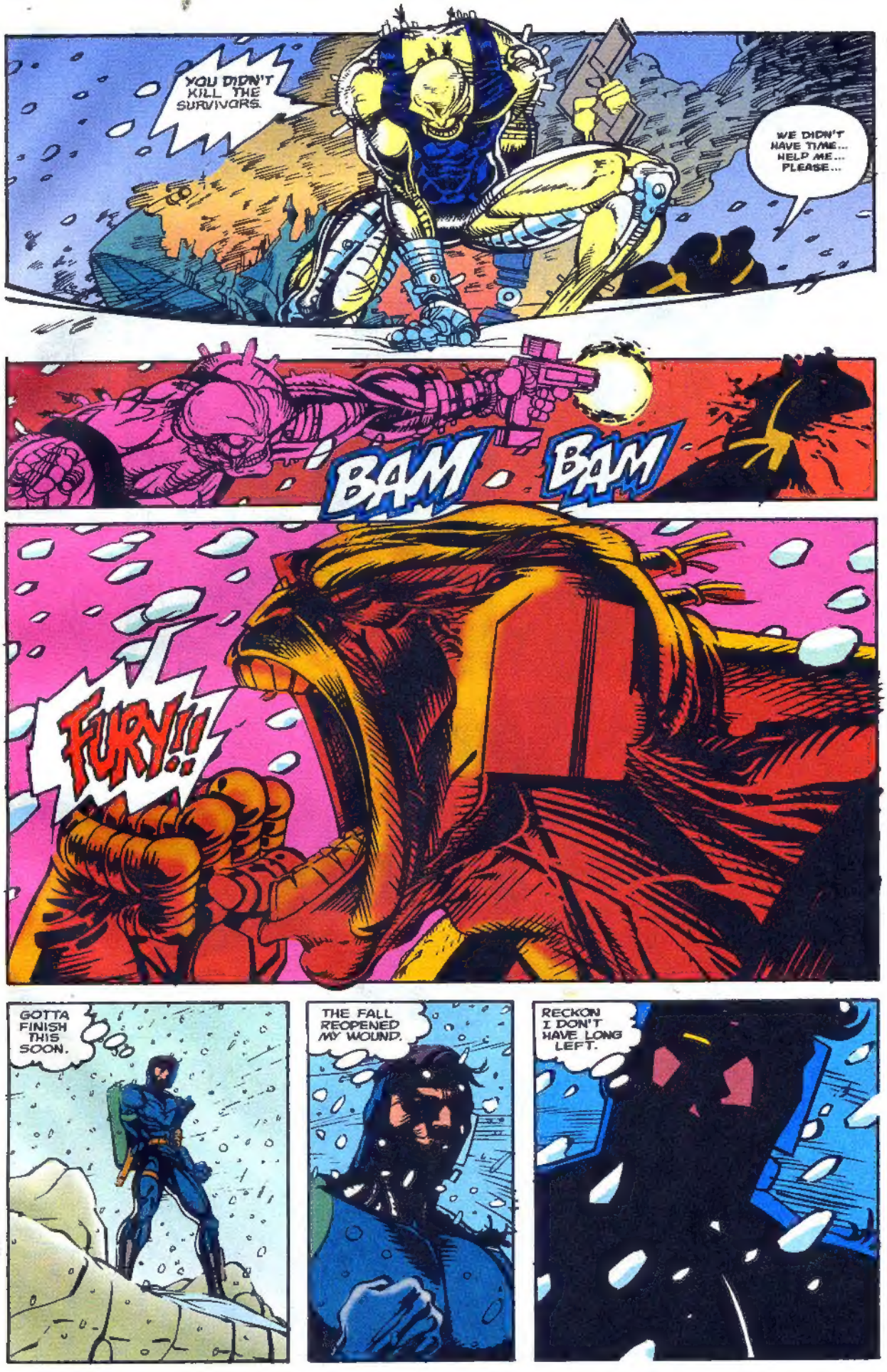
WE ALL HAVE CONFLICTING IMPULSES, DIFFERENT IDENTITIES-- AND IT'S O.K. THAT ALL THAT EXISTS IN A SINGLE PERSON!
ARE YOU WILLING TO TO TRY?
THE TRICK IS IN NAVIGATING BETWEEN THEM. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW THAT'S A HARD STRUGGLE...
...BUT IT'S A STRUGGLE WORTH THE EFFORT! AND I THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT WORK.
YES.
IT'S TIME FOR SOME PEACE...
...AND QUIET AROUND HERE~
HANG ON, DOC!
THE OUTSIDE IS MORE VULNERABLE TO SUPER-POWERS
EXCELLENT. THIS IS A WONDERFUL START ON THE ROAD TOWARDS A HEALTHY NEW LIFE.
FOR PSYCHO-BABBLE'S SAKE, I HOPE SO.
ACTUALLY, VENGEANCE, I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU.
YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP IN CONTROLLING YOUR VIOLENT URGES. BUT YOU NOT ONLY CURBED THOSE URGES YOURSELF, CHOOSING TO HEAL INSTEAD...
...BUT YOU ALSO SHOWED REMARKABLE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO JUGGLE IDENTITIES.
I COULDN'T HOPE FOR A FINER PATIENT!
THE END.

IT WAS SUPPOSED T' BE A SIMPLE MISSION--TRANSPORTING A S.H.I.E.L.D. PROTOTYPE TO A BASE IN THE YUKON, ALASKA.
WE'RE HIT!!
NICK FURY AGENT OF SHIELD
CODENAME WOLFEN
'COURSE, WHEN THE PROTOTYPE'S A GENETICALLY ENGINEERED KILLING MACHINE, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SIMPLE.
MILO, STATUS REPORT.
ALL SYSTEMS DOWN. SOMEONE'S INSTALLED A VIRUS IN OUR NET RUNNING PURGE ROUTINE
LOCATED THE SOURCE OF THE VIRUS. IT'S THE PROTOTYPE--
"--WOLFEN!"
HAIL HYDRA!
HA HA
HA HA

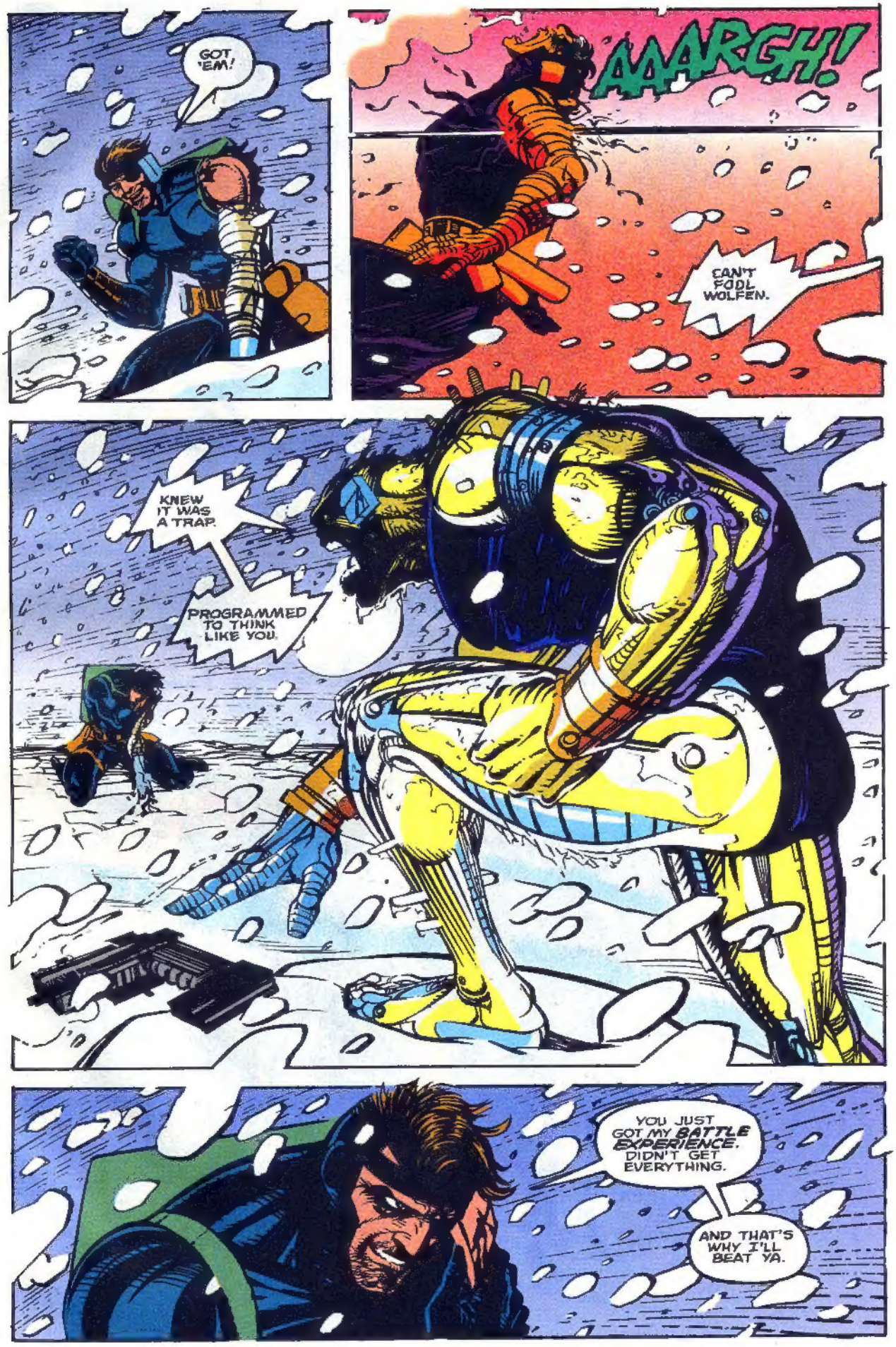

KRASH!
UGLY, AIN'T HE
YEAH, WELL, WE DON'T WANT HIM FOR HIS LOOKS.
THEY'VE GOT WOLFEN.
A STRIKEFORCE WAS WAITING TO PICK HIM UP. MOST OF US WERE UNCONSCIOUS OR TOO INJURED TO STOP THEM
THE STORM'S DELAYING BACK UP. IT LOOKS BAD.
WE'VE LOST JUST ABOUT EVERYONE
PATCH ME UP, DOC. I GOTTA STOP 'EM.
I HELPED PROGRAM WOLFEN. I KNOW WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF.
IF THEY GET AWAY WITH HIM, THEY'LL CONTROL AN UNSTOPPABLE KILLING MACHINE AND MORE...

THE DOC DOES A GOOD JOB ON MY WOUNDS. MAKES THE PAIN BEARABLE.
AND WHEN THEY DO, THERE'S ONLY ONE SUITABLE PLACE—BUCK'S PLATEAU.
THE WEATHER'S GETTING WORSE-- HYDRA WON'T BE ABLE TO PICK UP THEIR STRIKEFORCE TILL IT IMPROVES
THE CYBORG'S NO SHIRLEY TEMPLE. THE ROUTE WON'T SUPPORT ITS WEIGHT.
THEY SUPPORT MINE JUST FINE.
ALL I GOTTA DO NOW IS SET THE CHARGE AND WAIT
COULDN'T BE EASIER
HUH. FEELS LIKE MY SHOULDER'S BEEN PULLED FROM ITS SOCKET
GOTTA HOLD ON, IGNORE THE PAIN
IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN A LITTLE FALL TO STOP NICK FURY!

PICK-UP POINT'S JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE. WE GO THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT.
FREEDOM.. SO CLOSE.
GRRR SOMETHING'S WRONG
BOOM!!


YOU DIDN'T KILL THE SURVIVORS.
WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME... HELP ME... PLEASE...
BAM
BAM
FURY!!
GOTTA FINISH THIS SOON.
THE FALL REOPENED MY WOUND.
RECKON I DON'T HAVE LONG LEFT.

TRUST US, THEY SAID. S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDS A CYBORG.
IT'LL BE UN-STOPPABLE...
...AND WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE IN ITS CORE PROGRAM IT'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE.
SCIENTISTS.
WE'RE AT THE PASS.
NO SIGN OF FURY.
C'MON, YA MISERABLE LUMP O'ROCK, MOVE!!
AAARRGH!


GOT 'EM!
AAARGH!
CAN'T FOOL WOLFEN.
KNEW IT WAS A TRAP.
PROGRAMMED TO THINK LIKE YOU.
YOU JUST GOT MY BATTLE EXPERIENCE. DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING.
AND THAT'S WHY I'LL BEAT YA.

STILL THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF?
YEAH, 'CAUSE I ALSO KNOW WHAT YER NOT CAPABLE OF...
...LIKE PROLONGED ACTIVITY IN SUB-ZERO TEMPER-ATURES.
THAT'S WHY I LURED YOU UP HERE, WHERE IT'S MORE EXPOSED-- COLDER.
ALL YER SYSTEMS'LL BE SHUTTIN' DOWN ABOUT NOW.
YA SHOULDA REMEMBERED YOU'RE JUST A PROTOTYPE.
CONTROL, THIS IS FURY. I'VE GOT A RENEGADE CYBORG FOR YA TO PICK UP. OFF-LINE BUT SALVAGEABLE.
AND A S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR IN NEED OF A HOT BATH AND A FRESH CIGAR.
A MEDIC'D BE USEFUL, TOO!
END